

Title of Report:	Consultation on Admission Arrangements for Community and VC Schools & Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2012/13
Report to be considered by:	Management Board
Date of Meeting:	14 October 2010
Forward Plan Ref:	

Purpose of Report: To agree the consultation of the West Berkshire Council Admission Arrangements & Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2012-13

Recommended Action: To approve the proposed Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2012-13 for consultation

Reason for decision to be taken: Statutory Requirement

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: West Berkshire Admission Arrangements 2011-12
School Admissions Code 2010

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Plan Priority:

CPP2 – Raise levels of educational achievement – improving school performance levels

The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Plan Theme(s):

CPT9 - Successful Schools and Learning

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Plan Priorities and Themes by:

Achieving clear, fair and objective Admission Arrangements

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Barbara Alexander - Tel (01635) 201320
E-mail Address:	balexander@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Mwazwita Mundangepfupfu
Job Title:	Admissions & School Place Planning Officer
Tel. No.:	01635 519031
E-mail Address:	mmundangepfupfu@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	Consultation will inform determined admission arrangements to be agreed at Executive and Co-ordinated Scheme to be agreed by the Admissions Forum in due course.
Financial:	None If there are any financial implications contained within this report this section must be signed off by a West Berkshire Group Accountant. Please note that the report cannot be accepted by Policy and Communication unless this action has been undertaken.
Personnel:	None
Legal/Procurement:	None
Property:	None
Risk Management:	None
Equalities Impact Assessment:	None Where a decision is required, Policy and Communication are not able to accept your report without an EIA being completed. These should be sent to P&C along with your report and should be copied to the Principal Policy Officer (Equality & Diversity). For advice please contact Principal Policy Officer (Equality & Diversity) on Ext. 2441.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Councillor Graham Jones

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Councillor Brian Bedwell

Select Committee Chairman:

Ward Members:

Opposition Spokesperson: Councillor Alan Macro - No comments received to date

Local Stakeholders:

Officers Consulted:

Trade Union:

NOTE: The section below does not need to be completed if your report will not progress beyond Corporate or Management Board.

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Regulations require Local Authorities acting as admission authorities to consult on admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, and co-ordinated admissions schemes for all maintained schools in their relevant area. Admission arrangements must be consulted on by 1 March 2011.
- 1.2 Regulations require that the consultation is carried out between 1 November and 1 March and that it should last a minimum of 8 weeks.
- 1.3 The consultation for the 2012-13 admission arrangements for West Berkshire Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools is proposed to run between 14 November 2010 and 7 January 2011.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Council consult on continuing with the fundamental admission arrangements for the 2011-12 year and the co-ordinated admissions scheme agreed by the Admissions Forum 2011-12 without any amendments.
- 2.2 However, it is proposed that there is a consultation on some small changes to the catchment areas of five Community primary schools and one Community secondary school that would harmonise with consultations on changed catchment areas for two Voluntary Aided primary schools and one Foundation secondary school. This is proposed to manage the demand from catchment area pupils at the primary schools concerned and to retain the co-terminous nature of the secondary schools concerned. It is expected that these will link with forthcoming proposed catchment changes from schools whose governing bodies are the admissions authority.
- 2.3 There have been extensive discussions with the schools concerned and local members informed of the consultations.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 That proposed consultations are agreed to be considered as an Individual Decision via Management Board.

Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Regulations require Admission Authorities to consult on admission arrangements for a period of 8 weeks between the period 1 November and 1 March. It is proposed that West Berkshire's consultation on arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools is undertaken between 14 November 2010 and 7 January 2011.
- 1.2 The consultation will be augmented with a consultation on the proposed co-ordinated admission scheme for 2012-13 that will be agreed in due course by the Admissions Forum.
- 1.3 Consultation will also include the West Berkshire admission arrangements for Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes; for which it is also proposed that the arrangements for the 2011-12 year be continued.
- 1.4 Consultation will be undertaken with all West Berkshire schools and governing bodies, Council Members, Parish Councils, neighbouring LAs and school admission authorities, Diocesan Boards, West Berkshire Admissions Forum, Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and internal consultation bodies.
- 1.5 The DfE published a new School Admissions Code in February 2010, the requirements of which were already taken into account when determining the admission arrangements and co-ordinated scheme for the 2011-12 admissions arrangements.
- 1.6 It is proposed that the Council consult on continuing with the fundamental admission arrangements for the 2011-12 year and the co-ordinated admissions scheme agreed by the Admissions Forum 2011-12 without any amendments.
- 1.7 Proposed admission numbers 2012-13 and the Co-ordinated Scheme for 2012/13 are provided in the attached Appendices.
- 1.8 It is proposed that there is a consultation on some small changes to the catchment areas of five Community primary schools and one Community secondary school that would harmonise with consultations on changed catchment areas for two Voluntary Aided primary schools and one Foundation secondary school. This is proposed to manage the demand from catchment area pupils at the primary schools concerned and to retain the co-terminous nature of the secondary schools concerned. It is expected that these will link with forthcoming proposed catchment changes from schools whose governing bodies are the admissions authority.
- 1.9 Following discussions with headteachers, the governing bodies of St. John the Evangelist Infant School and St. Nicolas Junior School in Newbury will be asked to consult on changes to their catchment areas to improve the levels of catchment area children able to receive preferred places at the schools. In line with this it is proposed that amendments are made to the catchment areas for John Rankin Infant and Junior and Falkland Primary schools to provide a more managed

availability of success for catchment residents to receive preferred places at those schools.

- 1.10 Map A (attached) shows the North-West of the existing catchment areas for the Voluntary Aided schools of St.John the Evangelist Infant and St.Nicolas Junior, identifying an area outlined in red where it is proposed that the catchment area of the John Rankin Infant and Junior schools be enlarged. It is hoped that alongside this, the governing bodies of the two VA schools will consult on the corresponding reduction to their catchment areas.
- 1.11 Map B (attached) shows the Southern areas of the catchment areas for the two VA schools and the John Rankin schools, identifying an area outlined in red where it is proposed that the catchment area of Falkland school be enlarged. A corresponding reduction in the John Rankin schools catchment area is proposed and, again, it is hoped that alongside this, the governing bodies of the two VA schools will consult on the corresponding reduction to their catchment areas.
- 1.12 The catchment areas for St.John the Evangelist, St.Nicolas and the John Rankin schools are entirely within the catchment area for St.Bartholomew's Foundation secondary school and the catchment area for Falkland school falls within the catchment area for Park House Community secondary school. It is therefore proposed, to retain the co-terminality of the primary and secondary areas, that the catchment area for Park House school is enlarged with the area outlined in red on Map B; is also hoped, therefore, that the governing body of St.Bartholomew's school will consult on the corresponding reduction to their catchment area.
- 1.13 It will be further proposed that amendments are made to the catchment areas for Spurcroft and Francis Baily Primary schools in Thatcham to alleviate the imbalance of demand and availability of school places across the two schools. Discussions have been held with the schools concerned and Map C (attached) identifies an area outlined in red where it is proposed that the catchment area for Francis Baily school is enlarged with a corresponding reduction in the catchment area of Spurcroft school.
- 1.14 It is therefore proposed that the consultations outlined be agreed by Individual Decision.

Appendices

Appendix A – Consultation Admission Arrangements and proposed Admission Numbers for 2012-13

Appendix B – Proposed Year 12 Admission process 2012-13.

Appendix C – Proposed Co-ordinated Scheme 2012-13.

Appendix D – Proposed Nursery Admission Arrangements 2012-13 for Nursery Schools and Nursery classes.

Map A – North-West Catchment Area of St. John the Evangelist and St. Nicolas Schools.

Map B – Southern Catchment Area of St. John the Evangelist, St. Nicolas and John Rankin Schools.

Map C – Southern Catchment Areas for Spurcroft and Francis Baily Schools.

Consultees

Local Stakeholders:

Officers Consulted: Ian Pearson, Caroline Corcoran, Malcolm Berry

Trade Union: